

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected the only remaining pending independent claim in the patent application, i.e., claim 18, as being anticipated by Punola. As will be discussed further below, Applicant respectfully submits that even if Punola discloses that Al-Cr particles are arranged near the workpieces 45 in receptacles B1, B2, a process gas is not introduced onto these Al-Cr particles to generate the coating gas as claimed by Applicant.

In Applicant's invention, a process gas is introduced onto coating granules to generate the coating gas. In Punola, the AlCl₃ coating gas is discharged over Al-Cr reactivity-altering particles in beds B1, B2 to convert (reduce) this aluminum trichloride gas to a different form. Thus, in Punola, the AlCl₃ is not introduced onto the Al-Cr particles to generate the coating gas, as claimed by Applicant, but rather, is merely discharged over the reactivity-altering particles to convert the gas from one form to another. Applicant respectfully submits that generating a coating gas is distinguishable from converting the coating gas (AlCl₃) from one form of Al to another, such as AlCl₂ and AlCl (which are higher activity forms of Al).

In Punola, any generating of the coating gas is done in "metal halide gas generators 20, 22". Aluminum pellets are arranged in generators 20, 22 and a gas is supplied to the generators to flow over the pellets to generate the AlCl₃ coating gas. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that even if Punola discloses that Al-Cr particles are arranged near the workpieces 45 in receptacles B1, B2, a process gas is not introduced onto these Al-Cr particles to generate the coating gas as claimed by Applicant. In contrast, in Punola, the AlCl₃ coating gas is generated in generators 20, 22 by the aluminum pellets and this AlCl₃ coating gas is flowed over the Al-Cr reactivity-altering particles to convert the AlCl₃ coating gas to a different form of Al.

Therefore, not only does Punola not disclose generating the coating gas by the Al-Cr particles, but because these particles do not generate the coating gas, these Al-Cr particles cannot then be interpreted to disclose Applicant's claimed "coating granules". Again, the Al-Cr particles are not "coating granules" as

claimed by Applicant, but rather, are reactivity-altering particles. In Applicant's invention, the coating granules generate the coating gas. In Punola, the reactivity-altering particles merely convert the coating gas (AlCl₃) to another form. In Punola, any "coating granules" that generate the coating gas are disposed in gas generators 20, 22, and since these coating granules are not arranged near the workpieces to be coated, as claimed by Applicant, Punola cannot disclose this further feature of Applicant's invention where the coating granules are arranged near the workpieces to be coated.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claimed invention and Punola are two completely different methods for CVD coating of workpieces. In Applicant's invention, coating granules are arranged near the workpieces to be coated and a process gas is introduced onto these coating granules arranged near the workpieces to generate the coating gas. In Punola, aluminum coating pellets are disposed in a coating gas generator to generate the coating gas. The coating gas generator, and thus, the aluminum coating pellets, are not arranged near the workpieces to be coated in Punola. In Punola, any particles arranged near the workpieces are not used to generate the coating gas, but rather, these reactivity-altering particles merely convert the coating gas (AlCl₃) to another form. Therefore, for at least the reasons that Punola does not disclose coating granules arranged near the workpieces to be coated to generate the coating gas, as claimed by Applicant, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 18 is allowable over Punola. As discussed above, Punola merely discloses reactivity-altering particles arranged in beds B1, B2 to convert the coating gas (AlCl₃) to another form.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 18, and the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over Punola.

Further in this Amendment, Applicant has amended withdrawn independent claim 28 to include the above-discussed special technical feature of independent claim 18. Therefore, because independent claims 18 and 28 both include the same special technical feature that is not disclosed by Punola,

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner re-enter withdrawn independent claim 28, and the claims that depend therefrom, in the application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

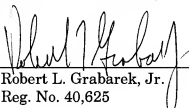
If required, this paper should be considered to include a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any such fee, any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 011235.56373US).

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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